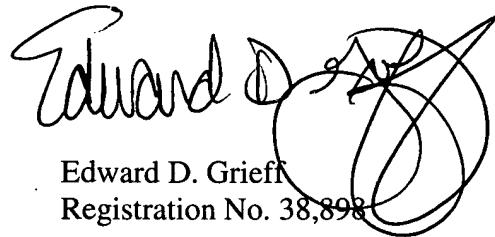


**Preliminary Amendment
Application No. 09/671,995**

An early and favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-32, 40, 41 and 44-89 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward D. Grieff". To the right of the signature is a circular emblem or seal containing a stylized letter 'E'.

Edward D. Grieff
Registration No. 38,898

Date: April 11, 2001

Hale and Dorr LLP
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202-942-8400